



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE
March 8, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) conducted a meeting of key public utility and transportation officials on emergency communications prior to and during disaster situations. Illinois Homeland Security Director Matt Bettenhausen gave an overview of the state's role in emergency preparedness. Other key speakers were Mr. Joe Tumolo, Director, Business Continuity Planning and Emergency Management for Verizon Domestic Telecom, Mr. Cortez Trotter, Director, Chicago 91-1 Center, and Mr. Ed Leach, Manager, IEMA EOC. The meeting focused on how companies would communicate to the ICC and each other. Mr. Tumolo, who was at Ground Zero, presented his company's operations procedures during and after the events of September 11th. Mr. Leach gave an overview of IEMA's role and authority as directed by state statute.
- As of March 4, the Illinois Department of Public Health Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,648 samples. All have been negative for anthrax.
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff recently attended Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) workshops in Atlanta, Georgia, and Denver, Colorado, to obtain information on preparing bioterrorism grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The final application deadline is April 15, 2002.
- Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) staff participated in conference calls with representatives from Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, and North Carolina in an effort to continue the development of a regional emergency animal disease plan. The following work groups have been assigned: Livestock Tracking, Communications, Standardization of State Plans, and Regional Plan Development. Final recommendations are due by April 19. Once a plan is developed, an exercise will be held.

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Conservation Police Officers continue to patrol rural areas and campgrounds in the vicinity of the Byron, LaSalle, and the Quad Cities nuclear power stations for any suspicious activity. Conservation Police continue to provide coverage as needed in the areas around Dresden, Braidwood, and Heidecke Lake, and continue to monitor activity in restricted areas at Clinton Lake and Lake Shelbyville during routine patrols. Clinton Lake is now open northeast of the Route 48 bridge with only one boat ramp at Parnell open to provide access.
- Discussions continue with Exelon Nuclear, the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS), Department of Natural Resources, and other agencies involved with public boating and fishing access to cooling lakes at several of the state's nuclear power plants.
- IDNR Senior Geological Survey (ISGS) Managers met to discuss natural and manmade disasters/crises which could place demands upon the ISGS's expertise and resources. The discussions emphasized development of response plans.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Highways (IDOT-H) is working with the Transportation Research Board on consultant contracts for a surface transportation security handbook and threat assessment procedure for use by highway departments. IDOT-H continues to complete a questionnaire for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Task Force on Transportation Security for use in the development of a Highway Vulnerability Assessment Guide.
- The Public Information Committee of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force presented recommendations to vendors for the development of terrorism and disaster preparedness public service announcements.
- Unified Command Training for the Central State Interagency Response Team (SIRT) is scheduled for April 10, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sherman Fire Department. On March 19, the Central SIRT Team is scheduled to receive training at the Sherman Fire Department including a presentation by IDPH Dr. David Culp on Biological and Chemical Warfare Weapons; practical exercises on SCBA equipment, donning and doffing and vitals; and an IEPA review of

detection equipment.

- Homeland Security Planning Workshops were held in Aurora, Rockford, Tinley Park, and Chicago during the week of February 25. A total of 191 people participated in the work shops, including several mayors, public safety and health officials, and public works directors. Homeland Security Planning Training scheduled for March 4-8 includes:

Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts Course
Awareness Refresher, including Basic Terrorism Awareness
Hazardous Materials Operations Course for 33 people
Hazardous Materials Technician Course for 35 people

For additional information, contact the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

- The American Red Cross (ARC) is finalizing and reviewing Threat Condition Alert protocols for chapters and blood regions. In addition, the ARC continues to work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on strengthening safety, security, and evacuation plans at DCFS-licensed facilities.
- Training on the handling of radiation accident victims is being conducted for several hospitals and emergency medical service providers during March in Galesburg, Monticello, and Chicago. Additional sessions are scheduled for April. For additional information contact the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety at (217) 785-9900.
- IDNS representatives outlined the state's position on the use of potassium iodide (KI) at the American College of Preventive Medicine's annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, last week. The state's position will also be presented during a panel on KI at the upcoming National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference in Milwaukee in April.
- IDNS provided Nevada officials with information on the state's radiological waste transport program. A bill to develop an escort and inspection system similar to that in Illinois has been introduced in the Nebraska Legislature.
- Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics employees participated in a working group in Chicago on February 28, 2002, to address temporary flight restriction issues in the

downtown Chicago area. The meeting included the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA), and Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). Information obtained at the meeting will be included in a bimonthly newsletter which is sent to more than 22,000 pilots, aircraft owners, and aviation professionals in and surrounding Illinois.

- The following is the seventh in a series of practical tips offered by the U. S. State Department on how private citizens can individually contribute to the fight against terrorism by using their observation skills. This installment focuses on students and teachers.

Terrorists may use college and university libraries and databases to obtain information that can help them plan their attacks. They may try to secret their inquiries and will refrain from asking for assistance from attendants to avoid focusing attention on their actions. They sometimes seek anonymity by living in or around large student populations.

Terrorists are known to drop in or out of specialized courses dealing with such topics as chemical compounds and formulation, aviation, security procedures, and law enforcement, etc. Terrorist supporters often have families. Because they move frequently, students and family members may disappear from a community or an educational institution unexpectedly.

Students or educators who recognize persons who display these characteristics or exhibit other unexplained, suspicious behavioral patterns should report their observations to law enforcement authorities.